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27 August 1963

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Meeting of CIA Subcommittee of House Appropriations
Committee - 27 August 1963 - 3:30 p.m.

1. Mr. Cannon called for a meeting with the Agency at 3:30 this afternoon. He specifically was advised that Mr. McCone was out of town and General Carter was not able to attend at 3:30 since he had an appointment with the President for that time. All members of the Subcommittee were present and the meeting was held in Room 128A of the Old House Office Building. No transcript was taken as usual. Present from the Agency were:

Donald Chamberlain

Abbot F. Smith

John A. Bross

John S. Warner

2. The information was that Mr. Cannon wished to talk about certain aspects of the nuclear test ban treaty and also we received word through Bob Michaels that Mr. Mahon wished to discuss [redacted] budget item. As events happened, neither of these subjects was discussed.

3. Mr. Cannon read a number of excerpts from an article which apparently was written by one Vivian Drake concerning travelling to the moon and orbiting satellites carrying nuclear weapons. Dr. Chamberlain gave a rather detailed assessment of the problems involved in use of satellites as a nuclear weapons platform versus the advantages and

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disadvantages of ICBMs. Involved in the discussion under questioning from Cannon were the matters of large and small boosters and large and small nuclear weapons. Dr. Chamberlain discussed both of these aspects in some detail. It is difficult to say whether Mr. Cannon understood Dr. Chamberlain or whether he believed him despite the fact that all Agency personnel agreed that the answers were clear, understandable, and in nontechnical language. From the attitude of the other members of the Subcommittee, it was my judgment that they understood the answers and were somewhat disturbed at the general line of Mr. Cannon's questioning.

4. Mr. Mahon raised an interesting question of whether or not we should indulge in a military spending race with the Soviets and Abbot Smith responded to this in some detail pointing out that the relative power position did not necessarily increase in direct relationship to increases in relative spending on arms. There were also some questions concerning the general thinking of Khrushchev concerning nuclear weapons with some directed to the Cuban episode.

5. There were also some questions by Mr. Ford concerning the development of the antiballistic system in Soviet Russia and this was discussed in considerable detail.

6. At the close of the meeting without the budget matter having been raised, Mr. Bross inquired of the Chairman whether it would be appropriate to raise a question on our budget and Mr. Cannon indicated that it would not be appropriate. The above consumed approximately an hour and a half. It appeared that the members were as puzzled as the Agency representatives as to the purposes which were to be accomplished by the meeting.

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JOHN S. WARNER
Legislative Counsel

cc: Comptroller
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